

4879

**PUBLIC PARTICIPATION FERNALD
ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT PROJECT
OCTOBER 1993**

**DOE-FN/PUBLIC
2
FACTSHEET**

**FERNALD**

Environmental Management Project

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

48 7 9

INTRODUCTION

Several federal regulations guide the cleanup of Fernald:

- ☐ The Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act (CERCLA)
- ☐ The Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act (SARA)
- ☐ The Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA)
- ☐ The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA)

All of these laws require public involvement under a well-defined set of activities and schedules. Moreover, the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) wants to ensure public participation in the decisions about Fernald. So DOE has decided that it will not limit its public involvement program to those mechanisms required by law.

How Do I Become Involved?

There are several ways to become a part of cleanup decisions at Fernald. Some of the major activities include:

Answers to Questions

Fernald officials want to answer your questions. If they don't have answers immediately, they will get them. Call:

Kenneth L. Morgan
Director of Public Information
(513) 648-3131
Or write:

Public Information
U.S. Department of Energy
Fernald Field Office
P.O. Box 398705
Cincinnati, Ohio 45239-8705

Public Meetings and Workshops

These forums are opportunities for members of the public to meet and discuss cleanup and waste management activities with those responsible for doing the work. Public meetings and workshops are advertised in three area newspapers: *The Harrison Press*, *The Journal News* in Hamilton, and *The Cincinnati Enquirer*.

Sometimes public hearings are held, either as a separate meeting or during regular meetings or workshops. The primary purpose of public hearings is to record public comments on a specific proposed action.

Community Roundtables

These are small meetings that usually focus on specific technical or regulatory issues related to Fernald cleanup. Participants attend by invitation only because of the specialized nature of the topics. If you are interested in being invited to roundtables, contact Ken Morgan at (513) 648-3131.

Site Tours, Speakers

Fernald offers group tours of the site. You can get tour information by calling Rachel Clark at (513) 738-6321. Tours are not provided to school-age groups.

Speakers for group meetings or schools are available through the speakers bureau. To get more information or to request a speaker, call Rachel Clark at (513) 738-6321.

Public Comment Periods

The public has many opportunities to comment on cleanup and waste management documents. At various stages in the Remedial Investigation and Feasibility Study process, public input is sought on proposed cleanup activities. After the public has commented, the DOE issues a summary of the comments and how they were addressed.

The public may comment on any part of a document, from the proposed action to the amount of jargon it contains. If you feel you need more information in order to comment on a document, DOE encourages you to call Ken Morgan at (513) 648-3131.

All public comments will be considered by DOE and the draft document may be revised based on the comments received. The comment period is an important part of public participation at Fernald.

When there is a public comment period, an advertisement is put in the legal notice section of the *Cincinnati Enquirer*, the *Hamilton Journal News*, and *The Harrison Press*.

° Among the documents that have public comment periods are:

- Remedial Investigation reports
- Feasibility Study reports
- Proposed Plans
- Draft Records of Decision
- Removal Action work plans
- Community Relations Plan

For major reports required by the Amended Consent Agreement between DOE and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the public comment periods start on the date the reports are submitted to EPA. The upcoming reports are:

September 10, 1993 - Operable Unit 4 Feasibility Study/Proposed Plan

October 12, 1993 - Operable Unit 1 Remedial Investigation/Baseline Risk Assessment

February 18, 1994 - Operable Unit 2 Remedial Investigation/Baseline Risk Assessment

March 7, 1994 - Operable Unit 1 Feasibility Study/Proposed Plan

April 29, 1994 - Operable Unit 2 Feasibility Study/Proposed Plan

June 10, 1994 - Operable Unit 4 Record of Decision

June 24, 1994 - Operable Unit 5 Remedial Investigation/Baseline Risk Assessment

November 6, 1994 - Operable Unit 1 Record of Decision

November 16, 1994 - Operable Unit 5 Feasibility Study/Proposed Plan

January 5, 1995 - Operable Unit 2 Record of Decision

March 28, 1995 - Operable Unit 3 Initial Screening of Alternatives

July 3, 1995 - Operable Unit 5 Record of Decision

March 13, 1996 - Operable Unit 3 Remedial Investigation/Baseline Risk Assessment

August 7, 1996 - Operable Unit 3 Feasibility Study/Proposed Plan

April 2, 1997 - Operable Unit 3 Record of Decision

Fernald Citizens Task Force

The Fernald Citizens Task Force is another opportunity for public participation. Members of this advisory group represent the major groups affected by activities at Fernald. Members report to their groups and to the public, either through meetings or publications.

The Citizens Task Force makes recommendations to DOE about cleanup standards, waste disposal and future land use. These recommendations will help guide cleanup at Fernald.

Information Repository

Information on the site and cleanup activities is available for review at the Public Environmental Information Center (PEIC), located in the JAMTEK Building, 10845 Hamilton-Cleves Highway, Harrison, Ohio, 45030.

The public may get copies of documents at the PEIC.

Written Materials

There are a variety of written materials prepared about Fernald to keep people informed about the cleanup and related activities. The newsletter about the cleanup is mailed to people who have asked to be on the site mailing list. Other materials, such as fact sheets, are available at meetings, at the PEIC, or by request.

News releases also are prepared for the area media.

Briefing Public Officials

Public officials and agencies often are asked for information about Fernald. Therefore these officials are kept informed through regular briefings and notifications.

Employee Communication

More than 2,500 people work at Fernald. They often share information about the site with their families, friends and neighbors. As part of the employee communication program, updates, a monthly newsletter and a weekly publication are distributed to employees.

Why Do I Need to Become Involved?

The more public involvement in the decision-making process at Fernald, the better decisions will be. Participating in decisions at Fernald will help DOE respond to your concerns and clean up the site in a safe, effective and economical manner.